

Appl. No. 10/789894
Reply to Action dated 4/11/08
Page 2

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
AUG 11 2008

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A seat belt ~~device~~ apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
a ratchet retractor including a reel, ratchet teeth formed on the reel and a ratchet claw and capable of ~~dispensing and~~ retracting webbing of a seat belt, said webbing being locked by engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth so that the webbing cannot be drawn out of the retractor when an acceleration equal to or larger than a predetermined value is applied to the vehicle, said ratchet retractor further including a weight adapted to be responsive to the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value to move from an inoperative to an operative position effecting the engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth thereby to make said ratchet retractor lock the webbing;

an electronic control unit;

an electric motor receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in a normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt when a collision of the vehicle is predicted and, when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided and the acceleration has been reduced to be smaller than the predetermined value, said electric motor receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in the normal direction to cancel locking thereby ~~loosening thereafter~~ allowing the webbing to loosen; and

a device separate from said weight and adapted to ~~predict the collision of the vehicle and~~ send a signal to the electronic control unit indicating a possibility of the collision of the vehicle so that with said signal from the device, the electric motor is commanded by the electronic control unit to be driven for rotation in the normal direction

Appl. No. 10/789894
Reply to Action dated 4/11/08
Page 3

to take up the webbing of the seat belt, said device including an adaptive cruise control system which permits said electronic control unit on receipt of the signal to calculate said acceleration ~~based on a vehicle speed~~ and to carry out a predication of the collision of the vehicle,

wherein when said acceleration falls below said predetermined value so that said signal from the device indicating the possibility of the collision of the vehicle has disappeared, which is an instant when said weight returns from its operative position to its inoperative position, the electronic control unit ~~and the adaptive cruise control system~~ provides for the electric motor to operate to drive and rotate the reel in the normal direction to rotate the reel in an amount corresponding to at least one crest of the ratchet teeth to cancel the locking, thereby thereafter allowing loosening the webbing to loosen.

11. (Currently amended) The seat belt device apparatus according to claim 10, wherein when the collision of the vehicle is predicted by said device, the electric motor is operated to rotate the reel in the normal direction even in a state where said ratchet claw has already been engaged with one of the ratchet teeth.

12. (Currently amended) The seat belt device apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said device further includes one of a vehicle stability assisting system (VSA), an electric power steering system (EPS), a supplementary restraint system (SRS), and an automatic transmission system (AT).

13. (Currently amended) A seat belt device apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
a ratchet retractor including a reel, ratchet teeth formed on the reel and a ratchet claw and capable of ~~dispensing and~~ retracting webbing of a seat belt, said webbing being locked by engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth so that the webbing cannot be drawn out of the retractor when an acceleration equal to or larger than a predetermined value is applied to the vehicle, said ratchet retractor further including a weight adapted to be responsive to the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value to move from an inoperative position to an operative position

Appl. No. 10/789894
Reply to Action dated 4/11/08
Page 4

effecting the engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth thereby to make said ratchet retractor lock the webbing;

an electronic control unit;

an electric motor receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in a normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt when a collision of the vehicle is predicted and, when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided and the acceleration has been reduced to be smaller than the predetermined value, said electric motor receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in the normal direction to cancel locking thereby ~~loosening~~ thereafter allowing the webbing to loosen; and

a device separate from said weight and adapted to ~~predict the collision of the vehicle and~~ send a signal to the electronic control unit indicating a possibility of the collision of the vehicle so that with said signal from the device, the electric motor is commanded by the electronic control unit to be driven for rotation in the normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt even in an engaged state of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth, said device including an adaptive cruise control system which permits said electronic control unit on receipt of the signal to calculate said acceleration ~~based on a vehicle speed~~ and to carry out a predication of the collision of the vehicle,

wherein when said acceleration falls below said predetermined ~~value~~ value so that said signal from the device indicating the possibility of the collision of the vehicle has disappeared without any further signal from a sensor, which is an instant when said weight returns from its operative position to its inoperative position, the electronic control unit ~~and the adaptive cruise control system~~ provides for the electric motor to operate to drive and rotate the reel in the normal direction to rotate the reel in an amount corresponding to at least one crest of the ratchet teeth to cancel the locking, thereby thereafter allowing ~~loosening~~ the webbing to loosen.

14. (Currently amended) The seat belt ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 10 ~~13~~, wherein said ~~device~~ apparatus further includes one of a vehicle stability assisting system (VSA), an electric power steering system (EPS), a supplementary restraint system (SRS), and an automatic transmission system (AT).